

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Actuating device for a lock in a door or hatch of a motor vehicle,

-- with a lock cylinder (10), which has a lock (15) located a certain axial distance away and a shaft (20) extending between it and the lock;

-- which shaft transmits (13) a torque (12) to the lock (15) when the lock cylinder (10) is rotated;

-- where the shaft (20) is flexible (14.1-14.4) in its axial direction (14) to compensate for a radial offset (18, 19) between the axis (16) of the lock cylinder (10) and the lock (15), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

-- the one-piece shaft (20) is made of flexible material (29) and has a family of notches (25, 25') extending transversely to the axis (14) of the shaft;

-- which notches are recessed in pairs (25, 25') into the shaft (20) from diametrically opposing sides (21, 22 and 23, 24); in that

-- when the shaft (20) is stretched out straight, the two flanks (26, 26; 26', 26') of the notches (25, 25') are essentially parallel to each other and extend radially with respect to the axis (14) of the shaft; ~~in that~~ wherein

-- the notch pairs (25, 26') leave a web (27, 27') in the shaft (20) between their flanks (26, 26; 26', 26');

-- which web is located on the axis (14) of the shaft and extends essentially across the entire diameter (30) of the shaft (20); ~~in that~~ wherein

-- the webs (27, 27') produce flex points, at which, when bending load is exerted on the shaft (20), the two flanks (26, 26; 26', 26') of the notch pairs (25, 25') can swing toward (38, 38') or away (37, 37') from each other; ~~in that~~ wherein

-- intermediate axial pieces (40), extending in the axial direction (14) of the shaft and with the full cross section of the shaft (40), remain between successive pairs of diametrically opposing notches (25, 25'); and ~~in that~~ wherein

-- a driver (31) for actuating the lock (15 or 15' or 25") and/or a connection (32) for the lock cylinder (10) is formed integrally on the shaft (20).

2. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the driver (31) has the form of a paddle.

3. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~Claim 1 or Claim 2,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein an overload element (33) is
integrated into the connection (32),

-- which overload element, when the lock cylinder (10) is
actuated as normal by the key, ensures a nonrotatable connection
between the cylinder core (11) and the connection (32) at the outer
end of the shaft (20), but also ~~in that~~ wherein,

-- when the lock cylinder (10) is actuated forcibly by means of
a break-in tool, as a result of which a specific torque limit is
exceeded, the overload element (33) lets the cylinder core (11) and
the driver (31) for the lock (15) rotate freely with respect to each
other.